

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER VISITS ZAMBIA

1. GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER LANSANA BEAVOGUI PAID A FOUR-DAY
OFFICIAL VISIT TO ZAMBIA AUGUST 11-14. BEAVOGUI ARRIVED IN
ZAMBIA FROM MOZAMBIQUE ALONG WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER
AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE KEITAHMAMADI, MINISTER OF
DEFENSE ALAFET KOUROUMA, AND MINISTER OF WORKS ABDOULAYE DIALLO.

2. IN LUSAKA, DELEGATION ATTENDED DINNER HOSTED BY PRESIDENT
KAUNDA AND A RECEPTION BY PRIME MINISTER MAINZA CHONA, CALLED
ON UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (UNIP) SECRETARY-GENERAL
GREY ZULU, LAID A WREATH AT FREEDOM MONUMENT, AND TOURED THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. BEAVOGUI TRAVELED NORTH TO VISIT THE UNIP
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REGIONAL OFFICE IN KITWE AND ATTENDED A LUCHEON IN HIS HONOR
BY THE COPPERBELT CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE GUINEAN PRIME
MINISTER ALSO TOURED THE KAFUE GORGE HYDROELECTRIC POWER
STATION AND DAM IN THE SOUTHEAST AND THE NITROGEN CHEMICALS
PLANT OF ZAMBIA IN KAFUE TOWN.

3. BEAVOGUI VISIT WAS WELL PUBLICIZED IN ZAMBIAN PRESS

WHICH ALSO PUBLISHED FAVORABLE COMMENTARY ON GUINEAN FOREIGN POLICY AND ON PRESIDENT TOURE. AUGUST 15 DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL LAUDED GUINEAN LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA AND NOTED GUINEA "HAS BEEN UNCOMPROMISING AGAINST INJUSTICE, RACISM, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM TO THE POINT GUINEA HAS BECOME THE NERVE CENTER OF A MERE BRAND OF BLACK NATIONALISM WHICH IS UNDILUTED AND MOST TRUE OF AFRICAN FORM." EDITORIAL APPEARED ALONGSIDE HALF-PAGE ARTICLE APPLAUDING SEKOU TOURE'S LEADERSHIP.

4. AT THE RECEPTION IN HIS HONOR GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER CHONA AUGUST 12, BEAVOGUI MADE A FIRE EATING SPEECH IN WHICH HE POINTED OUT THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND GUINEA. BOTH, HE SAID, HAD FOUGHT AND CONTINUED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE FORCES OF COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM INSTALLED IN NEIGHBORING STATES. FOR GUINEA THE FIGHT HAD BEEN AGAINST PORTUGAL AND THE CONTINUED STRUGGLE IS AGAINST NEO-COLONIALISM IN SENEGAL AND THE IVORY COAST. THIS COMMENT DREW LAUGHTER FROM HIS ZAMBIAN AUDIENCE. ANOTHER COMMENT GREETED WITH LAUGHTER WAS THAT HE HAD OBSERVED IN HIS TRAVELS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ZAMBIA THAT THE PEASANTS TILLED THEIR FIELDS WITH ONE HAND HOLDING A HOE AND THE OTHER A GUN. (EMBASSY COMMENT: GUN PERMITS ARE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO COME BY IN ZAMBIA.) IN HIS TURN, CHONA GLORIFIED THE GUINEAN STRUGGLE FOR TRUE INDEPENDENCE AND HEAPED PRAISE ON SEKOU TOURE AS THE MAN WHO SAID NO TO THE FRENCH COMMUNITY IN 1958.
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(KAUNDA REPEATED THESE THEMES IN HIS MEETING WITH BEAVOGUI.) IN DISCUSSING THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, CHONA SAID THE WHITES INEVITABLY WOULD BE DRIVEN INTO THE SEA "LIKE RATS LEAVING A SINKING SHIP; AND LIKE SUCH RATS THEY WOULD DROWN." IN A MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE AUGUST 14, KAUNDA POINTEDLY TRIED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, SAYING "THERE HAS NOT BEEN A TIME WHEN AN AFRICAN ON THIS CONTINENT HAS EVER SAID WHITES WOULD BE DRIVEN INTO THE OCEAN."

COMMENT:ZAMBIA HAS CAPITALIZED ON PRESENCE OF OFFICIAL GUINEAN DELEGATION TO BOOST ZAMBIA'S IMAGE AS A FELLOW "PROGRESSIVE" STATE. COMMON THEME STRUCK BY BEAVOGUI AND ZAMBIAN HOSTS WAS COMMONALITY OF INTERNAL AND FOREIGN PROBLEMS WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES FACE WITH CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS PLACED ON NEED FOR DISCIPLINE AND ORGANIZATION TO MAINTAIN CORRECTLY CHARTERED COURSE. HOWEVER, THE ZAMBIANS WE HAVE TALKED TO IN PRIVATE WHO HAVE BEEN IN GUINEA HAVE UNIVERSALLY REJECTED ANY IDEA OF ZAMBIA FOLLOWING GUINEA'S EXAMPLE EITHER ECONOMICALLY OR POLITICALLY. CHONA'S REMARK ON AUGUST 12 ABOUT DRIVING THE WHITES INTO THE OCEAN IS CERTAINLY NOT CHARACTERISTIC OF HIM; IT LOOKED TO HIS AUDIENCE LIKE HE GOT

CARRIED AWAY BY HIS OWN RHETORIC.

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